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SUBJECT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR CVT LIBERIA:
SPRMC006CA042

¶1. Summary: This monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report is based on Refugee Coordinator's (RefCoord) visits to the Center for Victims of Torture's (CVT) field offices in Liberia in October 2006 and January 2007. CVT is on target to meet its objectives in the PRM-funded program, "Promoting Community Resources for Healing in Liberia," and continues to provide much needed assistance to trauma victims among the returnee and local Liberian populations. End Summary.

¶2. This monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report is based on Refugee Coordinator's (RefCoord) visits to the field offices of the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) in Monrovia, Gbarnga, and Voinjama in October 2006 and January 2007. RefCoord met with CVT staff Dr. Jean-Baptiste Mikulu (Country Director), Alieu Mohamed Sannoh (Administrator), Sharon Gshaider (Clinician/Trainer), and Nelson Kaputo (Field Coordinator, Voinjama). RefCoord also met more than 30 CVT Psychosocial Counselors (PSCs) working in Bong and Lofa Counties and discussed CVT's field level coordination with various non-governmental and international organizations, including UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the American Refugee Committee (ARC).

OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

¶3. OBJECTIVE 1: Provide direct psychological and psychosocial services to 1,000 returnees and members of receiving communities who are suffering from experiences of torture or war trauma.

¶4. CVT prepared a nation-wide survey of psychosocial and mental health activities in cooperation with UNMIL's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC). CVT is now finalizing a formal baseline survey of mental health needs in Lofa County and has helped more than 860 clients.

- Indicator 1: This indicator has already been met.
- Indicator 2: CVT has achieved nearly 87% progress towards this indicator and expects to meet their target of 1000 clients by the end of the project.
- Indicator 3: CVT has exceeded their target.

¶5. OBJECTIVE 2: Train Liberian returnees and receiving community members as psycho-social counselors (PSCs).

¶6. With CVT's move to Lofa County, they were able to take advantage of a solid pool of qualified candidates for their program as many CVT staff originating from this area had worked with CVT while in refugee camps in Sierra Leone and Guinea. CVT staff demonstrate high morale and motivation in carrying out their work.

- Indicator 1: CVT expects to meet this indicator.
- Indicator 2: CVT expects to meet this indicator.
- Indicator 3: CVT has already met this indicator.

¶17. OBJECTIVE 3: Target group members in three project sites have a better understanding of and are more sensitive to issues related to torture and war trauma, mental health, and mental health services.

- Indicator 1 & 2: CVT expects to meet both indicators for their sensitization activities by the end of the project.

¶18. OBJECTIVE 4: In coordination with government entities, universities, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), conduct in-depth, specialized training for staff at other agencies and organizations working with affected populations.

- Indicator 1: CVT has met this indicator.
- Indicator 2: CVT has met this indicator.
- Indicator 3: CVT will probably not meet the indicator on training of trainer activities and post-test knowledge gain results. This is due to the lack of a CVT clinician from Nov. to Dec. 2006. CVT will examine better ways of testing knowledge gained from their training (results show a 14-18% change, below the target of 25%).

¶19. OBJECTIVE 5: Improve the capacity of gender-based violence (GBV) service provider partners to identify, refer, and provide relevant psychosocial support to survivors of sexual torture.

- Indicator 1: CVT has met this indicator.

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- Indicator 2: CVT has met this indicator.
- Indicators 3 & 4: CVT is slightly below target for these indicators.

PROGRAM ISSUES

¶10. Cross-Cutting Goals: CVT's activities target the most vulnerable and affected populations in Liberia. They have built in activities designed to provide some sustainability in their project, although they have not yet succeeded in formalizing cooperation with Liberian higher learning institutes that would help certify trained psychosocial practitioners.

¶11. Coordination: CVT coordinates with a wide variety of partners in carrying out its work. This is a major focus of Objective 4 in their proposals. Other NGOs complimented CVT's work and CVT has established a particularly close relationship with the American Refugee Committee (ARC) in Lofa and Bong Counties.

¶12. Effective Use of Funds: CVT has a high percentage of former refugees working on its staff. They continue to see a high retention rate in their activities even though they do not provide material support to their beneficiaries. They have successfully moved and established their presence in Lofa County and are the only NGO implementing this sort of program in their areas of operation.

¶13. SPHERE Standards: CVT does not apply SPHERE standards in its activities.

¶14. Personnel/Security Protocols: CVT's personnel and security protocols appear to remain adequate. Their compound in Lofa County is spacious and well guarded. CVT was not targeted in February when ARC's compound was broken into by armed robbers and they are linked to the UN security system.

¶15. Oversight: RefCoord did not discuss specific HQs

oversight with CVT staff during this project cycle, but Dr. Jean-Baptiste Mikulu, the CVT Country Director, makes regular visits to CVT HQs and has an open communication with RefCoord. CVT's progress reports are submitted on time and easy to read against indicators.

¶16. Problems: CVT initially closed their office in Gbarnga, Bong County, when they moved to Voinjama in Lofa County last summer. Mikulu reported that some staff had a difficult time at first adjusting to working in Lofa County. However, PRM's decision to continue funding CVT in Bong County alongside CVT's expansion in Lofa County boosted staff morale and the more than 30 PSC's RefCoord spoke to said they carry a big advantage in being able to work with trauma victims living in their own communities. All CVT staff RefCoord spoke to expressed their satisfaction with the move to Lofa. Mikulu said some staff live in the same communities as their beneficiaries and are even helping people build their homes and other facilities in these areas. CVT is still negotiating with Liberian universities a mechanism to have their training recognized as a professional certification. Many of their employees are counting on their work with CVT to lay the foundation for a future professional career in Liberia. Successfully negotiating such recognition will be important to CVT's long-term impact.

COMMENT

¶17. CVT's project appears to be well on its way to meeting most, if not all, of their objectives in the current project cycle. They have established a strong field presence and have a close relationship with the local population in the communities where they work. They remain a strong link in the assistance chain currently anchoring persons back in their communities of origin. Although counseling for trauma victims in Liberia is a daunting challenge, their efforts to establish a national framework for psycho-social counseling and assistance is much needed.

Hooks